

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTSHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

FILED: DECEMBER 16, 2008
08CV7173
JUDGE LEFKOW
MAGISTRATE JUDGE DENLOW
RCC
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,)
and CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS)
T. D. POPE, Star No. 3840, and)
G. HERNANDEZ, Star No. 16231,)
Defendants.) **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

COMPLAINT

Now comes Plaintiff, DAVID RIVERA, ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, Jeffrey B. Granich and Katie Z. Ehrmin, and makes the following complaint against Defendant CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ("Defendant City"), and Defendant CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS T. D. POPE, Star No. 3840, and G. HERNANDEZ, Star No. 16231, ("Defendant Officers"):

JURISDICTION and VENUE

1. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress the deprivation under color of law of Plaintiffs' rights as secured by the United States Constitution.
2. This Court has jurisdiction of the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 1367.
3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). All parties reside in this judicial district and the events giving rise to the claims asserted in this complaint occurred within this district.

PARTIES

4. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Kendrick Morris was a 33 year-old African-American male resident of Chicago, Illinois.
5. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Officers were Police Officers for the City of Chicago and were acting under the color of the law and within the scope of their employment.
6. Defendant City of Chicago is a municipal corporation, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, and is the employer and principal of the Defendant Officers.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. On or about January 30, 2007, Plaintiff was standing at or near a bus station with his girlfriend, Martha Parker, near the intersection of 95th and State St. in Chicago, Illinois.
8. At this time, one or more Defendant Officers approached Plaintiff, unreasonably and forcefully placed Plaintiff into handcuffs, and ordered him to accompany Defendant Officers into a nearby bus terminal.
9. One or more Defendant Officers then inquired whether Plaintiff's girlfriend, Martha Parker, wanted to sign a complaint against Plaintiff for domestic battery, to which Martha Parker replied that she did not.
10. At no time preceding this incident was Plaintiff involved in any type of domestic dispute with Martha Parker.
11. One or more Defendant Officers proceeded to unlawfully forge Martha Parker's signature to a complaint for a domestic battery against Plaintiff.
12. Defendant Officers then proceeded to unreasonably detain, seize, and arrest Plaintiff without an arrest warrant, without a search warrant, without exigent circumstances, without reasonable suspicion, without consent, and without probable cause to believe that Plaintiff was committing or had committed a crime.
13. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff was acting fully in conformity with all laws, statutes, and ordinances of the United States, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago.
14. Following his illegal and unconstitutional arrest, Plaintiff was placed in the rear of the vehicle operated by Defendant Officers and was transported to the

6th District Lockup where he was falsely charged with a domestic battery in violation of 720 ILCS 5.0/12-3.2-A-2.

15. Plaintiff remained in custody for approximately four days on this matter until he was able to post a bail bond.
16. On February 14, 2007 this false charge was dismissed against Plaintiff.

Count I – 42 U.S.C. § 1983 False Arrest

17. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 16 as if fully repledged herein.
18. On January 30, 2007, Plaintiff was seized and arrested without a warrant and without probable cause. This seizure and arrest were in violation of Plaintiff's rights secured under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States.
19. Defendant Officers unlawfully and maliciously arrested Plaintiff and wrongfully detained and searched him without any legal right to do so, in their official capacity as law enforcement officers, under color of state law, and acting within the scope of their employment.
20. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken pursuant to the policy and practice of the Chicago Police Department in that:
 - a. As a matter of both policy and practice, the Chicago Police Department directly encourages the type of misconduct at issue here by failing to adequately train, supervise and control its officers, and its failure to do so constitutes deliberate indifference;
 - b. As a matter of both policy and practice, the Chicago Police Department facilitates the type of misconduct at issue here by failing to adequately punish and discipline prior instances of similar misconduct, thereby leading Chicago Police Officers to believe their actions will never be scrutinized and, in that way, directly encourages future abuses such as those affecting Plaintiff; specifically, Chicago Police officers accused of misconduct are aware that the Office of Professional Standards will not fully investigate these accusations and will almost always refuse to recommend discipline even where the officer has engaged in wrongdoing;
 - c. As a matter of widespread practice so prevalent as to comprise municipal policy, Officers of the Chicago Police Department abuse citizens in a manner similar to that alleged by Plaintiff in this

Count on a frequent basis, yet the Chicago Police Department makes findings of wrongdoing in a disproportionately small number of cases;

- d. Municipal policy-makers are aware of, and condone and facilitate by their inaction, a “code of silence” in the Chicago Police Department, by which Officers fail to report misconduct committed by other Officers, such as the misconduct at issue in this case;
- e. The City of Chicago has failed to act to remedy the patterns of abuse described in the preceding sub-paragraphs, despite actual knowledge of the same, thereby causing the types of injuries alleged here;
- f. As a matter of express policy, the City of Chicago does not retain any records which are more than five years old documenting allegations of misconduct against police officers, thereby preventing the City from ascertaining any patterns of abuse which might develop over the course of a Police Officer’s career;
- g. As a matter of express policy, the City of Chicago refuses to take into consideration patterns of allegations of civil rights violations when evaluating the merits of any particular complaint. Regardless, the number of times an Officer is accused of the same misconduct, the Office of Professional Standards is forbidden by the City from considering those allegations if they are deemed “unsustained”; and,
- h. The problem with the policy identified in the preceding paragraph is that by its own accounting, the City sustains less than 5% of the complaints brought against Police Officers for violations of civil rights.

21. The acts committed by Defendant Officers were done maliciously, willfully and wantonly, intentionally, and with reasonable certainty that the acts were in violation of Plaintiff’s constitutional rights and would cause harm to Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant Officers and Defendant City in a fair and just amount sufficient to compensate him for the injuries he suffered, plus, Plaintiff seeks a substantial sum in punitive damages against Defendants, costs and reasonable attorney fees, and all such other relief as this Court finds just and equitable.

Count II – 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Unlawful Search

22. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 16 as if fully repledged herein.
23. Defendant Officers searched Plaintiff's person without a search warrant and without probable cause to believe Plaintiff was committing or had committed a crime in violation of the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution.
24. The Chicago Police Department has an unwritten policy of failing to update and inform its Police Officers regarding the state of the law of the United States and the State of Illinois.
25. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken pursuant to the policy and practice of the Chicago Police Department in that:
 - a. As a matter of both policy and practice, the Chicago Police Department directly encourages the type of misconduct at issue here by failing to adequately train, supervise and control its officers, and its failure to do so constitutes deliberate indifference;
 - b. As a matter of both policy and practice, the Chicago Police Department facilitates the type of misconduct at issue here by failing to adequately punish and discipline prior instances of similar misconduct, thereby leading Chicago Police Officers to believe their actions will never be scrutinized and, in that way, directly encourages future abuses such as those affecting Plaintiff; specifically, Chicago Police officers accused of misconduct are aware that the Office of Professional Standards will not fully investigate these accusations and will almost always refuse to recommend discipline even where the officer has engaged in wrongdoing;
 - c. As a matter of widespread practice so prevalent as to comprise municipal policy, Officers of the Chicago Police Department abuse citizens in a manner similar to that alleged by Plaintiff in this Count on a frequent basis, yet the Chicago Police Department makes findings of wrongdoing in a disproportionately small number of cases;
 - d. Municipal policy-makers are aware of, and condone and facilitate by their inaction, a "code of silence" in the Chicago Police Department, by which Officers fail to report misconduct committed by other Officers, such as the misconduct at issue in this case;
 - e. The City of Chicago has failed to act to remedy the patterns of abuse described in the preceding sub-paragraphs, despite actual knowledge of the same, thereby causing the types of injuries alleged here;

- f. As a matter of express policy, the City of Chicago does not retain any records which are more than five years old documenting allegations of misconduct against police officers, thereby preventing the City from ascertaining any patterns of abuse which might develop over the course of a Police Officer's career;
- g. As a matter of express policy, the City of Chicago refuses to take into consideration patterns of allegations of civil rights violations when evaluating the merits of any particular complaint. Regardless, the number of times an Officer is accused of the same misconduct, the Officer of Professional Standards is forbidden by the City from considering those allegations if they are deemed "unsustained"; and,
- h. The problem with the policy identified in the preceding paragraph is that by its own accounting, the City sustains less than 5% of the complaints brought against Police Officers for violations of civil rights.

26. The aforementioned actions of the Defendant Officers proximately caused Plaintiff to be deprived of his 4th Amendment right to be free from unlawful searches.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants in a fair and just amount sufficient to compensate him for the injuries he suffered, plus, Plaintiff seeks a substantial sum in punitive damages against the Defendants, costs and reasonable attorney fees, and all such other relief as this Court finds just and equitable.

Count III—Respondeat Superior and Indemnification

27. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 16 as if fully re-pledged herein.

28. Illinois law provides that public entities, such as Defendant City, are directed to pay any compensatory damages on a tort judgment against an employee who was acting within the scope of his or her employment.

29. At all relevant times, Defendant Officers were agents of Defendant City and employees of the Chicago Police Department acting within the scope of their employment. Defendant City, therefore, is liable as principal for all torts committed by its agents, Defendant Officers.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants in a fair and just amount sufficient to compensate him for the injuries he suffered, plus, Plaintiff seeks costs and reasonable attorney fees, and all such other relief as this Court finds just and equitable.

KENDRICK MORRIS,
Plaintiff,

By: s/Jeffrey B. Granich
Jeffrey B. Granich
Attorney for Plaintiff

JEFFREY B. GRANICH
Law Offices of Jeffrey B. Granich
53 W. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 840
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-9009
A.R.D.C. No. 6207030

KATIE Z. EHRMIN
Law Offices of Jeffrey B. Granich
53 W. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 840
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-9009
A.R.D.C. No. 6292120